

building one or more structure(s) from common materials, wherein such structure(s) includes at least two elements that represent information concerning the selected Subject;

identifying at least one connection between the elements, wherein such connection(s) could include any type of relation between elements in the structure(s);

connecting one or more elements using common materials that represent the identified connection(s);

discerning one or more physical characteristics of the structure(s); and

retrieving one or more conceptual elements from the structure(s).

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*6*  
*3.* The method of claim *5* ~~1~~, wherein the step of building includes the step of building one or more symbolic structure(s).

*7*  
*4.* The method of claim *5* ~~1~~, wherein the step of building includes the step of building one or more functional structure(s).

*8*  
*5.* The method of claim *5* ~~1~~, wherein the step of building includes the step of building structure(s) having five or less dimensions.

*9*  
*6.* The method of claim *5* ~~1~~, wherein the step of building includes building structure(s) having more than five dimensions.

*10*  
*7.* The method of claim *5* ~~1~~, wherein the step of building includes building a structure(s) with moving parts.

*11*  
*8.* The method of claim *5* ~~1~~, wherein the step of building includes building a structure(s) without moving parts.

*12*  
*9.* The method of claim *5* ~~1~~, wherein the step of building one or more structure(s) from common materials includes using art materials, such as clay, pens, paints, photographs, drawings, holograms, inks, foam core, Styrofoam, pipe-cleaners, yarn, string.

*13*  
*10.* The method of claim *5* ~~1~~, wherein the step of building one or more structure(s) from common materials includes using office materials, such as memos, notepads, envelopes, tabs, putty, staples and paper clips, as well as industrial refuse.

*14*  
*11.* The method of claim *5* ~~1~~, wherein the step of building one or more structure(s) from common materials includes using natural materials, such as leaves, bark, grass, wood, rocks, sea shells, and clay.

*15*  
*12.* The method of claim *5* ~~1~~, wherein the step of identifying at least one connection between the elements includes identifying at least one logical connection between the elements.

1613. The method of claim ~~1~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein the step of identifying at least one connection between the elements includes identifying at least one intuitive connection between the elements.

17.  
14. The method of claim ~~12~~<sup>15</sup>, wherein the step of identifying at least one intuitive connection between the elements includes identifying a connection that expands upon any type of relation between elements in the structure(s).

18.  
15. The method of claim ~~13~~<sup>14</sup>, wherein the step of identifying a connection that expands upon any type of relation between elements in the structure(s) includes observing, describing, rendering, articulating, noting.

19.  
16. The method of claim ~~1~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein the step of identifying further includes the steps of  
defining one or more methods of comparison or contrast between structure(s); and

connecting one or more elements using common materials that represent the defined method(s) of comparison.

20.  
17. The method of claim ~~1~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein the step of identifying further includes the steps of  
defining one or more relations between structure(s); and

connecting one or more elements using common materials that represent the defined relation(s).

21.  
18. The method of claim ~~16~~<sup>19</sup>, wherein the step of defining one or more relations includes defining hierarchical relations between structure(s).

22.  
19. The method of claim ~~16~~<sup>19</sup>, wherein the step of defining one or more relations includes defining non-hierarchical relations between structure(s).

23.  
20. The method of claim ~~1~~<sup>5</sup>, further comprising the steps of:

identifying one or more additional elements that represent information about the selected Subject;

identifying at least one connection between the elements, wherein such connection(s) could include any type of relation between the additional element(s) and the structure(s);

connecting the additional element with the existing structure(s) using common materials that represent a connection between the element(s) and the structure(s).

24.  
21. The method of claim ~~2~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein the step of identifying one or more additional elements is performed by a user that did not build the existing structure.

25.  
22. The method of claim ~~19~~<sup>22</sup>, wherein the step of identifying further includes the steps of

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defining one or more methods of comparison between the additional element(s) and the structure(s); and

connecting the additional element(s) to the structure using common materials that represent the defined method(s) of comparison.

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23. The method of claim <sup>22</sup>~~19~~, wherein the step of identifying further includes the steps of

defining one or more relations between the additional element(s) and the structure(s); and

connecting the additional element(s) to the structure using common materials that represent the defined relation(s).

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24. The method of claim <sup>25</sup>~~22~~, wherein the step of defining one or more relations includes defining hierarchical relations between structure(s).

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25. The method of claim <sup>25</sup>~~22~~, wherein the step of defining one or more relations includes defining non-hierarchical relations between structure(s).

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26. The method of claim <sup>5</sup>~~1~~, wherein the step of discerning one or more physical characteristics includes discerning through visual inspection of the structure(s).

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27. The method of claim <sup>5</sup>~~1~~, further comprising the steps of:

unpacking additional information about the structure(s) by recording any images, music, sounds or symbols that are experienced by a user; and

explaining the meaning of the structure(s).

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28. The method of claim <sup>29</sup>~~26~~, wherein the step of explaining the meaning of the structure includes explaining the physical characteristics of the structure.

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29. The method of claim <sup>29</sup>~~26~~, wherein the step of explaining the meaning of the structure includes explaining the conceptual information represented by the structure.

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30. The method of claim <sup>29</sup>~~26~~, wherein the step of explaining the meaning of the structure further includes the step of analyzing the structure.

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31. The method of claim <sup>32</sup>~~29~~, wherein the step of analyzing the structure includes analyzing the physical characteristics of the structure.

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32. The method of claim <sup>32</sup>~~29~~, wherein the step of analyzing the structure includes analyzing the conceptual information represented by the structure.

36 <sup>29</sup> 33. The method of claim ~~26~~<sup>29</sup>, wherein the step of explaining the structure further includes the step of interpreting the structure.

Rule 1.126 <sup>27</sup> 34. The method of claim ~~32~~<sup>27</sup>, wherein the step of interpreting the structure includes interpreting the physical characteristics of the structure.

<sup>38</sup> 35. The method of claim ~~32~~<sup>35</sup>, wherein the step of interpreting the structure includes interpreting the conceptual information represented by the structure.

<sup>39</sup> 36. The method of claim ~~26~~<sup>29</sup>, wherein the step of analyzing the structure includes analyzing the conceptual information about the Subject represented by the structure.

<sup>40</sup> 37. The method of claim ~~26~~<sup>29</sup>, wherein the step of explaining the structure further includes the step of interpreting the structure(s) relationship to the Subject.

A <sup>41</sup> 38. The method of claim ~~36~~<sup>39</sup>, wherein the step of interpreting the structure(s) relationship the Subject includes interpreting the conceptual information about the Subject represented by the structure(s).

<sup>42</sup> 39. The method of claim ~~2~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein the structure(s) is an electronic representation of a physical structure(s).

<sup>43</sup> 40. The method of claim ~~3~~<sup>6</sup>, wherein the step of unpacking includes retrieving explicit knowledge about the structure(s) from the user.

<sup>44</sup> 41. The method of claim ~~3~~<sup>6</sup>, wherein the step of unpacking includes retrieving tacit knowledge about the structure(s) from the user.

<sup>45</sup> 42. The method of claim ~~3~~<sup>6</sup>, wherein the step of explaining includes communicating the meaning of the structure(s) to another person.

<sup>46</sup> 43. The method of claim ~~3~~<sup>6</sup>, wherein the step of explaining includes communicating the purpose of the structure(s) to another person.

<sup>47</sup> 44. The method of claim ~~3~~<sup>6</sup>, wherein the step of explaining includes communicating the implications of the structure(s) to another person.

<sup>48</sup> 45. The method of claim ~~3~~<sup>6</sup>, wherein the structure(s) is an electronic representation of a physical structure(s).

<sup>49</sup> 46. The method of claim ~~3~~<sup>6</sup>, wherein the user is more than one person.

<sup>50</sup> 47. The method of claim ~~45~~<sup>48</sup>, wherein the step of explaining includes having each person that created the structure(s) disclose the information stored within the structure(s) to the other users.

51, 48. The method of claim ~~3~~<sup>6</sup>, further comprising the steps of:

identifying one or more logical relationships not stored within the structure(s); and

modifying the structure(s) to reflect such identified relationships.

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52, 49. The method of claim ~~3~~<sup>6</sup>, further comprising the steps of:

identifying one or more inventions reflected by the structure(s); and

modifying the structure(s) to apply the identified invention to a different subject.

53, 50. The method of claim ~~48~~<sup>51</sup>, wherein the step of modifying the structure includes the step of modifying the structure(s) to apply the identified invention to a modification of the original Subject.

A 54, 51. A method for facilitating the storage and retrieval of information from a structure(s) by a user, comprising the steps of:

providing a set of materials that can be used to represent information, including logical relations, concerning a given function, subject, topic or issue;

instructing the user to use the provided materials to assemble a symbolic structure(s) of the given function, subject, topic or issue;

presenting the user one or more questions regarding the physical aspects of the structure(s);

presenting the user one or more questions regarding the conceptual elements of the structure(s);

generating a list of user responses to the questions; and

instructing the user to revise the structure(s) based on the user's analysis of the generated list of responses.

55, 52. The method of claim ~~50~~<sup>53</sup>, wherein the step of providing a set of materials includes providing materials electronically.

56, 53. The method of claim ~~50~~<sup>53</sup>, wherein the step of presenting the user with one or more questions includes providing questions in an instruction manual.

57, 53. The method of claim ~~50~~<sup>53</sup>, wherein the step of generating a list of user responses includes asking the user to record their responses to the questions in writing.

58 ~~54~~ <sup>53</sup> The method of claim ~~50~~ <sup>53</sup>, wherein the step of instructing the user to revise the structure includes the step of instructing the user to "unpack" the structure(s).

<sup>59</sup> ~~55~~ <sup>53</sup> The method of claim ~~50~~ <sup>53</sup>, wherein the step of instructing the user includes instructing the user to interpret the structure(s) for another person for the purpose of providing additional data to further enrich another person's understanding of the symbolic model or the person building the model.

<sup>60</sup> ~~56~~ <sup>53</sup> The method of claim ~~50~~ <sup>53</sup>, wherein the step of instructing the user includes instructing the user to interpret the structure(s) for another person for the purpose of providing additional data or information to further enrich another person's understanding of the person(s) that built the model.

<sup>61</sup> ~~57~~ <sup>53</sup> A method for applying information that has been stored in an existing structure, comprising the steps of:

acquiring one or more pieces of information that are stored within the existing structure by using one or more human senses;

recording user responses generated in connection with acquisition of such piece(s) of information;

interpreting the structure for one or more users;

communicating one or more inventions that are reflected by the structure;

applying the invention(s) to a function, topic, issue, problem or opportunity.

<sup>62</sup> ~~58~~ <sup>61</sup> The method of claim ~~57~~ <sup>61</sup>, wherein the step of recording responses includes recording images, music, sounds or symbols that are experienced by a user in connection with acquisition of such piece(s) of information

<sup>63</sup> ~~59~~ <sup>61</sup> The method of claim ~~57~~ <sup>61</sup>, wherein the step of interpreting the structure includes conceptually or figuratively modifying, altering, changing, recontextualizing, reshaping the physical or symbolic information.

<sup>64</sup> ~~60~~ <sup>61</sup> The method of claim ~~57~~ <sup>61</sup>, further including the step of identifying any action items necessary for applying the invention to a function, topic, issue, problem or opportunity.

<sup>65</sup> ~~61~~ <sup>64</sup> The method of claim ~~60~~ <sup>64</sup>, further including the step of incorporating the identified action items directly into the structure.

<sup>66</sup> ~~62~~ <sup>61</sup> The method of claim ~~57~~ <sup>61</sup>, further including the step of revising the structure to reflect an invention.

67 <sup>63</sup> 63. The method of claim <sup>62</sup> 62, wherein the step of revising the structure includes modifying, transforming, changing or conceptually altering the physical or symbolic design of the structure.

<sup>63</sup> 64. A method for transferring information that has been stored in a structure(s) built by a first user to a second user and transforming the information stored in the structure, comprising the steps of:

the first user acquiring one or more pieces of information about the structure;

transmitting an explanation that includes the meaning of the acquired information from the first user to a second user;

recording responses of the second user generated in connection with acquisition of such piece(s) of information;

the second user discerning one or more physical characteristics of the structure(s);

the second user retrieving one or more conceptual elements from the structure(s);

the second user developing one or more interpretations of the structure; and

transmitting one or more developed interpretations from the second user to the first user.

<sup>69</sup> 65. The method of claim <sup>64</sup> 64, wherein the step of acquiring one or more pieces of information about the structure includes acquiring information concerning the physical characteristics of the structure.

<sup>70</sup> 66. The method of claim <sup>64</sup> 64, wherein the step of acquiring one or more pieces of information about the structure includes acquiring information concerning the conceptual information about the structure.

<sup>71</sup> 67. The method of claim <sup>64</sup> 64, further comprising the steps of:

identifying one or more logical relationships not stored within the structure(s); and

modifying the structure(s) to reflect such identified relationships.

<sup>72</sup> 68. The method of claim <sup>64</sup> 64, further comprising the steps of:

identifying one or more inventions reflected by the structure(s); and

modifying the structure(s) to apply the identified invention to a function, topic, issue, problem or opportunity.

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73. The method of claim 64, wherein the step of transmitting information includes transmitting information electronically.

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74. The method of claim 64, wherein the structure is an electronic structure.

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75. An apparatus comprising:

one or more elements, wherein the elements may be used to symbolize information concerning a Subject, such as a function, topic, issue, problem or opportunity;

a connector attached to said elements, wherein the connector symbolizes a relation between the elements;

attached to said elements or connectors, a connecting device, said connecting device being deformable and capable of connecting two or more connectors; and

attached to said elements or connectors, a multi-part connector, wherein the multi-part connector is asymmetrical.

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72. The apparatus of claim 71, wherein the elements comprise multimedia elements such as drawings, pictures, and objects.

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73. The apparatus of claim 71, wherein the elements symbolize tacit knowledge concerning the subject.

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74. The apparatus of claim 73, wherein the elements symbolize explicit knowledge concerning the subject.

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75. The apparatus of claim 73, wherein the elements are comprised of common materials.

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76. The apparatus of claim 75, wherein the elements are comprised of art materials, such as clay, pens, paints, photographs, drawings, holograms, inks, foam core, Styrofoam, pipe-cleaners, yarn, string.

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77. The method of claim 75, wherein the elements are comprised of office materials, such as memos, notepads, envelopes, tabs, putty, staples and paper clips, as well as industrial refuse.

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78. The method of claim 75, wherein the elements are comprised of natural materials, such as leaves, bark, grass, wood, rocks, sea shells, and clay.

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79. The apparatus of claim 75, wherein the connecting device has a euclidean shape, such as a sphere, oblate, prolate or hexadecapole.

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80. The apparatus of claim 75, wherein the connecting device has a non-euclidean shape, such as a self-similar, fractal form that is asymmetrical and irregular-shaped, based on the fractal-like organic forms and shapes of nature.

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